

The Bugle

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Because life's complicated enough

Contributions to trading.as.wdr@googlemail.com

"You must learn from the mistakes of others. You can't possibly live long enough to make them all yourself."

Sam Levenson

More water warnings

Ministers have urged us to "think about ways to use water wisely over the coming weeks", as East Sussex forms part of an area of 'severe drought', as declared by the Environment Agency. Arlington Reservoir, taking water from the Cuckmere, is down to 43%, the lowest for 12 months. Ardingly Reservoir, storing water from the Ouse, is just 19.4% full.



Arlington



Ardingly



Stop Press: Congratulations to Ripe Nursery, achieving 'strong standard' from Ofsted for the Wise Owls at Upper Dicker, making it a hat trick across Ripe, Laughton and Upper Dicker.



Call to support parade

Ripe resident Christopher Newton has once again stepped forward to organise the village's annual Remembrance Day parade, coming up on Sunday 8th November. This follows the untimely death of Nick Clutton.

Chris notes "Numbers on this parade decrease every year, and unless we can boost them, it will have to be discontinued. This would be a pity as the service has been conducted for at least 100 years."

"All members and ex members of the armed forces will be welcomed together with those of the auxiliary services police, fire, ambulance and nursing services. Any young people who wish to represent their grandparents who served are also very welcome." Phone 07512 315881 or email cd@newtonwaterproofing.co.uk for more details.

Odds and ends...

The Village Shop & Cafe in Upper Dicker has a half-term (Monday to Thursday) eat-in offer of one free child's meal (up to £5) with every full-priced main meal above £10.



Many happy returns to Ripe's oldest resident, Roy Medhurst, celebrating his 99th birthday at home, with cake and cards, alongside his wife Kath.



A selection of Guys from Hastings, Seaford and Hailsham; coming up, Firls Bonfire on October 24th.



Two items of news from Laughton Woods this week; one celebratory, the other very disturbing

Striking silver

Laughton Greenwood was awarded silver in the 2026 Community Woodland of The Year this week, by the Royal Forestry Society. The judges noted: "The sites' rural location supports local people's health, wellbeing and education, with nature-based therapeutic programmes, chainsaw certifications, chorus and bat walks as well as tree-planting days forming a well-connected programme for volunteers."



Horror for smallholder

Vets from Cliffe had to put down four sheep on land further south along Park Lane this week, after a dog attack.



Joe Richardson from Uckfield bought 12 acres in February, with the aim of small-scale regenerative farming. He purchased nine orphan lambs in May, and bottlefed them; "They had become family pets more than livestock".

The vets calculate the sheep were wounded around 6am; Joe arrived at 9am. Police have taken DNA samples and a small dog toy which was found on the scene. There will be advisory letters dropped to other Park Lane addresses in the week ahead.

Pelham field discussion

Laughton residents got a chance to raise questions about the proposal, from Laughton School, to fence in Pelham Field at a meeting in the school last week. It was confirmed to field would remain open and available for residents. The Parish Council say they will continue to work with the school to find a solution to the issues.



The 'slow down' sign campaign around Ripe and Chalvington seems to have annoyed someone. Nicholas Hamblin, who started putting out the signs in frustration at East Sussex Highways' price for traffic calming interventions, says eight have been taken in the past week. "East Sussex Highways have confirmed it's not their work. I have replaced some, and I hope that this time they stay, to try to keep our lanes safer".

